

REMARKS

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and discussion that follows. Claims 1-16, 18-46 and 48-56 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16, 18-46 and 48-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,841,771 to Irwin et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,825,779 to Putnins et al. After a careful review of the claims (as amended), it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and the rejections are, therefore, traversed.

2. Claims 1-16, 18-46 and 48-56 have been rejected as being obvious over Irwin et al. in view of Putnins et al. In response, independent claims 1, 16, 35 and 45 have been further limited to specific methods of compression and decompression. Support for the additional limitation may be found on page 16, lines 12-16 and in claims 55 and 56

It is noted in this regard, that Irwin et al. does not contain any teaching regarding compression. Putnins et al. is directed to compression, but does not specify any particular method or process of compression, other than to provide a look-up table to control a level of compression.

In addition, Putnins et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of the use of mask registers or of the use of specific bit locations of a respective address data to control the exchange of information. Similarly, Putnins et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of the use of an encoder to store information under both a compressed and uncompressed format and the selection of one

or the other based upon an output from the mask register. In addition, Putnins et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of a decoder that decompresses information or of a controller that overwrites or does not overwrite a predetermined memory location based upon an output of the mask register.

The Examiner implicitly admits that Putnins fails to teach or suggest the step of (or apparatus for) saving information under both the compressed and uncompressed format by failing to provide any mention thereof. With regard to the decompression step of overwriting data based upon mask register information, the Examiner asserts that "Regarding claims . . . 56 . . . Putnins teaches compressing information wherein following transmission the system implicitly de-compresses the information prior to processing or overwriting memory locations" (Office Action of 1/15/04, page 7). However, the Examiner's statement presumes the existence of something that is completely absent from Putnins et al.

In addition, it is not just any information that is overwritten. In the case at hand, it is the compressed data that is overwritten with decompressed data, but only when the status of the bit locations indicates that the corresponding predetermined memory locations contains compressed data". Irwin et al. and Putnins et al. (and the combination) fail to teach or suggest this claim limitation.

In addition, there may be many different methods of accomplishing compression and decompression. Even assuming arguendo that Putnins et al. did teach one particular type of compression and decompression (which it does not), the fact that a reference teaches one type of compression or

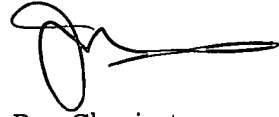
decompression does not mean that it implicitly teach or suggest the use of each and every other type of compression or decompression and certainly not using the methods as under the claimed invention.

In summary, Irwin et al. and Putnins et al. fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of methods of exchanging information based upon the storing of both compressed and uncompressed versions and selection of one or the other based upon the specific bits identified by a mask register. In addition, Irwin et al. and Putnins et al. fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of decompression based upon decompressing information and overwriting a predetermined memory location based upon the output of specific bits identified by a mask register.

As such, the combination of Irwin et al. and Putnins et al. fail to teach each and every claim limitation as required by MPEP §2143.03. Since the combination fails to teach each and every claim limitation, the rejection is believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

4. Allowance of claims 1-16, 18-46 and 48-56, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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